



The National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI)

5, Lajpatrai Road, Prayagraj-211002, India

Monthly Summary for the month of March 2020

1. “NASI - Himachal Pradesh (proposed) Chapter Meeting”, was organized on February 27 at/around 02 pm in the CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur, 176061, India. Preliminary discussion took place to open 23rd Chapter of the Academy; the rest of the formalities will be completed in the Council Meeting to be held shortly.
2. National Science Day, was celebrated on the theme on 'Women in Science' at NASI, Prayagraj on Feb. 28-29, 2020. Two distinguished scientists (Prof K A Suresh, Bangalore and Prof. I.K.Patro, Vice Chancellor, Ravenshaw University, Cuttak), delivered the lectures; and about 200 girls participated in the programme. A copy of the programme is attached, with few photographs - Encl.1.
3. A two-day workshop (jointly organised by the NASI & ICMR) on 'Healthcare Innovations in India' was held on 29th February and 1st March, 2020 at the National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai.
4. On the eve of the International Women's Day, a prestigious award (in the name of a renowned woman scientist), Prof. (Mrs.) Archana Sharma Memorial Lecture Award was given to Dr. Nilima Arun Kshirsagar (a woman scientist of repute), National Chair Clinical Pharmacology, ICMR, Mumbai, during the aforesaid workshop (sl. no. 3) at Mumbai on March 01, 2020.
5. In collaboration with NASI-MC, a workshop on 'Laser, Fibre Optics and Optical Communications, Fibre Sensors' was organized by the Indian Women Scientists' Association (IWSA) on 6th and 7th March, 2020 at IWSA premises in Vashi, Navi Mumbai. The photograph is attached herewith - Encl.2.
6. The 'International Women's Day Programme' which was scheduled to be held at Ravenshaw University, Cuttak, Odisha on March 7-8, 2020 (copy of the programme is attached herewith for kind information - Encl.3), was postponed due to spread of CORONA, and the Govt./UGC circular. The programme will now be held in future.
7. NASI received govt circulars from time to time to comply the instructions regarding the CORONA pandemic; and the necessary compliance were done.
8. The three National Science Academies jointly issued a Statement to show solidarity with the Government on the steps taken to contain the Corona virus infection. Many fellows have expressed their views and endorsed the statement and govt. initiatives/steps taken in this direction. A copy of the joint statement is attached herewith - Encl.4.

[N.B. - The 21 Chapters of the Academy also organized several programmes]

The National Academy of Sciences, India

Celebration of National Science Day

On the theme 'Women in Science'

Friday, 28th February 2020

Inaugural function

(10.30 - 12.00 noon)

Welcome	Mr. A K Srivastava Dy. Executive Secretary, NASI
About the Program	Dr. Mohd. Massod , Member, NASI; and Scientific Adviser Institute of Applied Sciences, Prayagraj
Introduction of Chief Guest	Dr. Ravindra Dhar , Member, NASI; Prof. in the Dept. of Materials Sciences, Institute of Interdisciplinary Sciences, University of Allahabad
Address of the Chief Guest	Prof. K A Suresh Honorary Professor Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences Bengaluru
Presidential remarks	Prof. S L Srivastava Formerly Professor & Head, Department of Physics, University of Allahabad; & Coordinator, Science Communication Programs of NASI
Vote of thanks	Mr. B P Singh Assistant Executive Secretary, NASI

High Tea

12.30 - 5.00 pm

**Scientific Presentations by the Students (Girls) on Novel
Technologies for Water Harvesting**

Friday, 29th February 2020

Valedictory Function

(11.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.)

Welcome	Mr. A K Srivastava Dy. Executive Secretary, NASI
Introduction of Chief Guest	Prof. U C Srivastava, FNASc Former Professor, Dept. of Zoology, University of Allahabad; National Coordinator, Sc. Comm. Prog., NASI
Address of the Chief Guest	Prof. I K Patro, FNASc Vice-Chancellor, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Odisha
Honouring the Teacher Awardee (Sri Pramod Parashar)	Prof. I K Patro
Address by the Teacher Awardee (Sri Pramod Parashar)	
Distribution of Prizes to students	Prof. I K Patro/ Prof. S L Srivastava/ Prof. U C Srivastava
Presidential remarks	Prof. S L Srivastava Formerly Professor & Head, Department of Physics, University of Allahabad
Vote of thanks	Mr. B P Singh Assistant Executive Secretary, NASI

Lunch

(1.00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m.)

Photographs of the function given below-





Dr. Lalitha Dhareshwar, distributing certificate in the workshop on '*Laser, Fibre Optics and Optical Communications, Fibre Sensors*' organized at the Indian Women Scientists' Association, Vashi, Navi Mumbai, March 07, 2020.

Science and Technology for the welfare of Women
Commemorating the International Women's Day-2020



Postponed



The National Academy of Sciences, India & Ravenshaw University, Cuttack
Earlier Dates & Venue: 7th & 8th March, 2020; Ravenshaw University, Cuttack

DAY-1: 7th March, 2020

Inaugural Session - 10:30 - 11:30 am

Welcome	: Prof. Ishan Kumar Patro Vice Chancellor, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack
Glimpses of the program and about NASI	: Prof. (Mrs.) Manju Sharma NASI Distinguished Women Scientist Chair Professor; Formerly Secretary, Govt of India, DBT
Theme Address	: Prof. Paramjit Khurana General Secretary (OS), NASI; Head, Dept of Plant Molecular Biology, University of Delhi, South Campus
Inaugural Address	: Dr. Balram Bhargava Secretary to the Gol, Department of Health Research & Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research
Felicitation of the Guests	: Dr. Niraj Kumar Executive Secretary, NASI
Vote of thanks	: Prof. Luna Samanta Department of Zoology, Ravenshaw University

Tea-break - 11:30 am - 12:00 noon

Session 1 - Agriculture (12:00 - 1:30 pm)

Chairman	: Prof. Akhilesh Tyagi Department of Plant Molecular Biology University of Delhi, South Campus; Past President, NASI
Co-chair	: Prof. Satya Deo General Secretary (HQ), NASI (20-25 minutes each)

Speakers

- Dr. Ajay Parida, Director, Institute of Life Sciences (DBT), Bhubaneswar
- Dr. S K Pradhan, Principal Scientist, Division of Crop Improvement, ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack
Discussion

Lunch - 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Session 2 - Health (2:30 - 4:00 pm)

Chairman : Dr. Gitanjali Batmanabane
Director, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

Co-chair : Dr. Nisha Patro
Scientist & Faculty, School of Studies in Neuroscience, Jiwaji University, Gwalior

Speakers

- Prof. Manjari Tripathi, Head, Unit II, Department of Neurology, AIIMS, New Delhi
- Dr. Shinjini Bhatnagar, Dean, Clinical Research and Professor & Head, Paediatric Biology Centre, Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad
- Prof. Bina Ravi, Department of Surgery, AIIMS, Rishikesh

Brief Comments : Dr. Sanghamitra Pati
Scientist 'G' & Director, Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Bhubaneswar

Tea break - 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Session 3 - Employment Opportunity (4:30 - 5:30 pm)

Chairman : Prof. (Mrs.) Manju Sharma
Past President, NASI

Co-chair : Prof. U C Srivastava
Emeritus Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Allahabad; Treasurer, NASI

Speakers

- Dr. Purnima Sharma, MD, BCIL, New Delhi
- Dr. Shelly Praveen, Head, Division of Biochemistry, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi
- Prof. Asima Sahu, Dean, School of Social Sciences, Ravenshaw University

DAY-2: 8th March, 2020

Valedictory Session (9:30 - 10:30 am)

Chairman : Prof. (Mrs.) Manju Sharma
Co-chair : Prof. Paramjit Khurana

Valedictory Address & : Dr. Ramesh Sonti
B P Pal Memorial Lecture Director, NIPGR, New Delhi

Presentation of Archana : Prof. Paramjit Khurana
Sharma Memorial Award GS (OS), NASI
and Acceptance Speech

Vote of Thanks : Dr. Niraj Kumar, ES, NASI

High Tea (10:30 - 11:00 am)



भारतीय राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान अकादमी
बहादुर शाह ज़फ़र मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110002
INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002

प्रोफेसर चंद्रिमा शाहा
अध्यक्ष

Prof. Chandrima Shaha
President

March 25, 2020

Statement by the Science Academies of India on the novel corona virus Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is of an unprecedented magnitude encountered in many decades. On behalf of the scientific community of the country, the Science Academies pledge full support to the initiatives of the Government to contain the spread of the novel corona virus attack, including scientific and technical support required to develop therapeutic measures. We will also join the Government in its appeal to the citizens to not be misled by rumours and to not use therapies that are not scientifically validated. The Academies support the complete lockdown of our country, and we have initiated the process of explaining to the citizens the importance of this lockdown.

The Science Academies pledge to extend their help and support to develop less-expensive diagnostic assays than those currently used, to validate repurposing of drugs and to develop vaccines and new drugs without compromising on national standards.

If called upon, the academies will actively co-operate and strengthen the hands of the Government to successfully overcome the current novel corona virus crisis, and help establish response systems that are scientifically rigorous, technically sound, administratively competent and sociologically acceptable. This will assure that the Indian society is appropriately and adequately equipped to face similar challenges in future, which the Science Academies strive to attain.

(Chandrima Shaha)

Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi
Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru
National Academy of Sciences India, Prayagraj (Allahabad)